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324½ East Avenue North,
Hamilton, Ontario,

February 6, 1964.

To the Ontario Committee on Taxation.

Dear Sir:

In reading the many briefs submitted to your committee, I noticed that they all suggest an additional tax on property owners. What is necessary first, is the wise spending of the tax money in the municipalities.

I will use Burlington's speculations as an example: First: In 1958, the Town Council decided to purchase the Studebaker-Packard site, on the Guelph Line. Despite the opposition of the tax payers, they obtained a Municipal Affairs approval to spend $600,000.00 for the property (which was taken from the 'Sub-division Fund' in the Township of Nelson's treasury. A year later, they obtained approval to issue a debenture for $300,000.00 for use in developing the above mentioned property. Total amount from the sales of this land amounted to $387,460.00 — leaving only a credit balance of $7,150.00. This type of gambling is causing great discontent among the tax payers. To make up for their losses, they tax the individual. I will cite some atrocities.

1. In 1958 my tax bill was . . . . . $ 42.42
   In 1960 it was 282.02

2. Fred Garmuch's property of 5 acres in
   1959 was 262.84
   And in 1960 it was taxed for 677.30

3. A. Struzek's property of 6 acres in
   1959 was 90.00
   And in 1960 it was taxed for 554.58

It seems to me, that the Town Council has used their discretion and have penalized the property owners for the benefit of some companies who purchased from the town.

Second: In 1958, the Council decided to purchase the Burlington Hydro-Electric system and obtained the approval of the Municipal Affairs to borrow $2,000,000.00 (the full purchase price). The Town Council then set up a Public Utilities Commission to run the business who immediately increased the price of hydro to the consumer. It is now 35% higher than in Hamilton and twice that of Toronto. This may be a hindrance to prospective industries who may wish to establish their business in Burlington. In the four years of operation, the Public Utilities gained a net profit of $2,303,468.78. Besides that they erected a new $750,000.00 office building. The average business man is forced to contribute to these huge profits or he is threatened to losing his life's earnings.

Third: The Town Council decided to fight fires with the use of a "snorkel" rather than with a pumper. Despite the fact that Burlington is equipped with a gravity water supply, (under-ground reservoirs) they are unable to have pressure at the end of the hose when snorkel equipped fire-fighters are raised 65 feet in the air. In the five recent major fires in Burlington, the buildings burned to the ground because either there was a lack of water pressure on the nosel or proper fire-fighting methods were not used.

I hope by these examples, you will realize why the tax payers are so upset over the mismanagement of their money.

Yours truly,

John Thili.